

The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1886.

Why?

Why, ask some of our moss-covered friends, why are you creating such an agitation over this East Orange sewerage matter? It is all right and perfectly harmless, the East Orange Town Committee say, and surely they ought to know; furthermore even, if there be danger of a nuisance, it will be time enough to move in the matter when the danger and disaster have become realities instead of probabilities—no use fighting shadows.

Let us look into this. It would be a hardy man, who, in these days of scientific advance, would deny the possibility of almost anything, short of a journey to the moon. Bone-factories, sewage works, powderworks, slaughter houses and other like institutions have been conducted without creating a nuisance, but who does not know that this is so unusual that the words designating them are almost synonymous with nuisance?

Therefore, to sit idly-by and permit the erection of what upon the face of it will likely prove a great nuisance, carrying disease and financial disaster into every part of the township, without investigation, protest or assurance of safety, except from interested parties, would be the height of folly. Water closets and cesspools may be safe sources of water supply, but nothing short of the unprejudiced testimony of the highest authority should satisfy us on that point.

Should this testimony prove beyond doubt that what East Orange proposes to do is absolutely safe, then will the time have been well spent and the money profitably expended; for we shall have assured ourselves and obtained the means wherewith to refute the slander of envious and malicious neighbors. On the contrary, should the evidence be against the safety of the scheme of our East Orange friends it will become incumbent upon us to puncture it.

Action by the Village Improvement Association.

The Improvement Association was the result of the same public movement which brought the *Tax Criers* into being. They have worked together for many a good work. It is with no little pleasure, therefore, that we find it in perfect accord with us on the sewage question as is shown by the following resolutions adopted last Tuesday evening:

Whereas, The Township of East Orange is taking active measures preparatory to the erection of sewage works on Second River, partly within the Township of Bloomfield,

And, whereas, Such an undertaking seems upon the face of it almost certain to produce an intolerable nuisance, threatening alike the health and financial prosperity of our town;

And, whereas, It is most unjust that one township should carry on hazardous experiments at the expense of another without substantial assurances of safety;

Now, therefore, Be it resolved, That the Bloomfield Village Improvement Association protest against the erection of sewage works upon the proposed site;

And, Be it further resolved, That the Committee of Sewage be enlarged and reorganized, so as to be composed as follows:—Messrs. G. Lee Stout, Jas. C. Beach, Thos. Oakes, Willard Richards, Jos. D. Gallagher, Theodore Ward and H. E. Richards; and that the said Committee be empowered to add to their number and to take such other steps in the premises as the nature of the case shall in their opinion demand.

The Democratic Nominee.

At their Convention on Tuesday last, the Democrats nominated for Governor of this State, Judge Robert S. Green of Union Co. The nomination was the result of an exceedingly bitter contest between the adherents of the McPherson and Kelsey wings of the Democratic party and a probably fatal, and certainly disastrous defeat of the latter.

Just what the total effect of their factional fight will be upon the fortunes of the campaign, remains to be seen; but some effect it will have, and that effect will be adverse to the election of Judge Green. Another factor to be taken into account in the coming campaign is the labor vote. It is said, with how much truth is uncertain, that the labor organizations are bitterly opposed to Judge Green. This disaffection is probably exaggerated, but with equal probability exists in some degree.

These two uncertain quantities will serve to make the campaign more interesting, as it may fairly be presumed that they will more than offset the almost equally uncertain quantity of the Prohibition vote, and make the

contest between the two great parties more nearly equal.

To Judge Green, personally, there can be no objection. He is a gentleman of good family and fine ability, and if elected, will be worthy of the seat filled by a long line of Governors in the past.

As to the platform, there is little to be said. It is like most political platforms, a jumble of unmeaning phrases, it dodges all questions of interest to the people, and means nothing. Any line of policy the governor elected upon it may choose to adopt, will equally well accord with its expressions.

In fact the principal attraction of the Prohibition party to men of convictions to-day, is the fact that right or wrong, they have some convictions that they are not afraid to express.

Reviewing the whole matter, it seems a fairly safe conclusion that the Republicans, if a first class man is nominated, upon a platform of definite principles, have an unusually good chance of success this year.

Dr. L. W. Bacon on Prohibition.

The *Hartford Courant* gives the following report of a talk by Dr. Bacon to the Hartford Congregational Club:

The Pharisaic pretensions of the Prohibitionists to a sole and exclusive morality fail on exposure. It will be a happy day for public morals when this Pharisee of the statute book has to step down and be judged like the rest of us by its fruits. Only in Maine has it had a long run. It has been rejected in all other States, notoriously because it was miserably ineffective—repealed in the interest of public morality. How does prohibition work? Generally after opening successfully it stops working. Nothing about the whole business is so certain as that a monstrous amount of lying has been done in the name of prohibition. An hour that he (Dr. Bacon) once spent in Portland convinced him that when the law does work the State becomes the purveyor to those who use liquor to excess. He stepped into the public place of sale and watched the customers and he was sure some came not for mechanical, nor medicinal, nor even sacramental uses. A licensee would have refused to sell to some of these; the city can't refuse. The law is prohibitory in that it forbids refusing to sell. The only applicant he saw refused was a grave elderly old gentleman, evidently a member of the A. B. C. F. M., which was in session there. He was doubled up with the colic. He was furnished the dose he desired, but when he asked for a tumbler to take it in, as he needed it at once, he was told, no; that it was against the law. It was a long time before a temporary lull in the traffic which was there being extirpated gave him a chance to talk with the man who was selling the liquor. When the chance came he asked how business was so brisk, when from eminent authority he heard that the traffic was suppressed. "Oh, you mean Neal Dow," was the reply, "we make allowance for him." The man went on to say that saloon dealers were let alone by the law so long as they stuck to "soft drinks." The conversation was less important than the visible evidence that Portland was itself supplying the drinkers. General Neal Dow is a stockholder in a large and successful liquor dealing concern, his interest measured by the amount of his tax list. The results of the law are that generally it doesn't work, when it does the State becomes the purveyor to the drinkers; and there is grave evidence to show that when a prohibitory law is most effective the enforced effect upon the morals is worse. Gov. Chamberlain, of Maine, said the result was less drinking and more drunkenness. Of course, said Mr. Bacon, this is a good result for those who think that drunkenness is bad but that moderate drinking is worse.

The growth of the Knights of Labor has been phenomenal. "In 1883 the number of members in round figures was 52,000; in 1884, 71,000; in 1885, 111,000." Three to five hundred thousand is the present estimate of members. The growth of the Knights of Labor we quote from Professor Ely's new work, "The Labor Movement" from which the above figures are taken) during the past two years has been more remarkable in the South and East of the U. S. than elsewhere. The report for July, 1884, shows 64 members in Richmond; now one hears rumors, apparently well-founded, of six and seven thousand, even of eight thousand, and it is certain the Knights were able to select a municipal ticket in the Spring of 1886 by a large majority." The nomination of Henry George, a distinguished labor champion, for Mayor of New York, by the trades unions of that city, is a significant event, which may have an important influence upon future political contests.

From South America.

We take great pleasure in giving the following extracts from a letter written by a gentleman travelling in South America, to a friend in Bloomfield, while the general reader will greatly enjoy them, to the botanist they will be of universal interest.

MARIPU, BOLIVIA, S. A.

MY DEAR FRIEND: I am in the midst of the great incense producing district of South America, and it is wonderfully interesting

to one occupying the position that I hold. As thoroughly as I studied coca a few months since, so I have now been studying cinchona. Only in this instance my studies have been purely botanical, while as regards the coca, they were chemical. The chemistry of coca was unknown until I took it up. In cinchona, the chemical work was about accomplished already, but the botany of the subject offered a branch entirely unexplored, namely, the behavior of the genus under cultivation; and really it has behaved on a very broad scale. I have a collection unequalled by anything in existence, comprising about 50 species, varieties and crosses, and exhibiting every part of the tree except the root. My bark sections are entire, and about 4 feet long. It is really something magnificent. Other work has been almost neglected for this, but I have of course, done more or less collecting. Here you may travel for 25 or 30 miles through quina plantations. I have seen thus far about five million trees. Some of my specimens are very rare.

H. H. R.

Little Millie (at the dinner table, to her father, who had given her the smallest piece of pie on the plate.) "Papa, why is my piece of pie like Europe?" Papa (thoughtfully): "Like Europe? Indeed, I don't know. Why is it?" Little Millie: "Because it's the smallest of the grand divisions."

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